

NOTES.

Mr. Geo. D. Mendell, of Victoria, Australia, writing in the Bendigo Independent, makes an urgent appeal to the Australians to take up the question of forest preservation. Mr. Mendell visited Canada recently and evidently has a high appreciation for what has been done here, as he holds Canada up to the admiration of Australia as a shining example of progress and intelligent foresight. As it is rather pleasant to be represented in this role and it may strengthen the interest in the question of forestry to know how others look upon what we are doing, a few sentences from the article may be noted. Mr. Mendell says:—

“It is only about six years since the Canadian Government woke to the fact that one of its most valuable assets, its timber, was being prodigally wasted. Ever alert to the possibilities and future of trade, in which respect Canada imitates America and supplies Australia, and especially Victoria, with an admirable object lesson, the Government established a Forestry Department and passed laws to make its work effective. The Canadians regard forestry as the foster mother rather than the handmaiden of agriculture, and the puzzle to the observer, unconnected with either science, at first sight is that forestry is not considered the equal, the peer of agriculture, and just as carefully studied in an agricultural community like Victoria.”

Mr. Mendell also refers to the Canadian Forestry Association, and urges the organization of a similar society in Victoria.

“There are, as you know full well, two great classes of forests and no more. There is the wild forest and there is the civilized forest. People who know forests only through books, I mean through bad books, not the books written by members of this assembly, fancy that the wild forest is the thing. A time was too when people thought that the wild man, the man in a state of nature, was a nest of virtue and that, leading a kind of simple life, he led also, of necessity, a model life. The truth is quite